REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2-10, 16 and 17 have been amended. Claims 12-15 have been cancelled. Claims 1-11 and 16-21 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-11 and 16-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,893,116 to Simmonds et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,911,143 to Deinhart et al.

Simmonds et al. does not disclose "information...including a position in the real world for each of the resources," as recited, for example, in claim 10. According to this feature, there are multiple connecting means which are external to the computer. This feature is illustrated, for example, in FIG. 1 of the present application, which illustrates information consents 3A-3C which connect PC 4 to LAN circuit 2.

Deinhart et al.

As previously argued, the Examiner relies upon Deinhart et al. as disclosing that the resource information managing means manages information including the position in the real world of the resources, as set forth, for example, in claim 10. According to this feature of the present invention, each resource is assigned a specific location. This feature is illustrated, for example, in FIG. 2 of the present invention, which shows three printers, with three different position locations.

In contrast, Deinhart et al. does not disclose assigning a different position in the real world to each resource. Instead, this reference discloses assigning the same print location to all printers within a large geographical area. Specifically, resource set 9 includes all printers at the location Heidleberg, and all of the individual resources 10 have this same print location. Deinhart et al., column 9, lines 51-67; FIG. 5. Thus, Deinhart creates a list of available resources, whereas an object of the present invention is to select a candidate for the most suitable resource.

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Examiner's response to Arguments (Item 16b of Office Action)

In response to the above arguments, the Examiner states that the features upon which the Applicant relies are not recited in the claims. As discussed above, claim 10 has been amended herein to more clearly recite these features. Furthermore, please note that claim 21 is unamended herein, and recites that the position in the real world for each of the resources is different. Claim 21 is also discussed below.

The Examiner also maintains that Deinhart discloses the claimed positions in the real world. However, by assigning the same print location to all printers within a large geographical area, Deinhart controls a large geographical scope and thus only a rough control over the printer selection is possible. Deinhart teaches a role type selection according to position or title. Thus, any printer having the selected position or title may be selected, even if the location of the printer may not be convenient for a user. The present invention is advantageous as compared to Deinhart, because a more selective control over the location of the printer is possible, eliminating the selection of printers that are not easily accessible to the user.

Accordingly, claim 10 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 1 recites "said first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing information relating to resources, including a position in the real world for each of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 1 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 2 recites "said first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing information relating to resources, including a position in the real world for each of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 2 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 3 recites "said first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing information relating to resources, including a position in the real world for each of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 3 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 4 recites "said computer comprises resource information managing means for managing plural sets of information relating to the resources, including a position in the real world for each of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 4 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 5 recites "said first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing plural sets of information relating to resources, including a position in the real world for each of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 5 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 6 recites "said computer comprises resource information managing means for managing plural sets of information relating to the resources, including a position in the real world for each of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 6 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 7 recites "the information including a position in the real world for each of the resources." Accordingly, independent claim 7 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 8 recites "said computer comprises resource information obtaining means, when another computer is connected to said connecting means of said network circuit, for obtaining information relating to the usable resources through said network circuit from said other computer, said information including a position in the real world for each of the resources, and resource setting means for setting the resource according to the information relating to the resource obtained by said resource information obtaining means." Accordingly, independent claim 8 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 9 recites "said computer comprises resource information managing means for managing plural sets of information relating to the resources, including a position in the real world for each of the resources." Accordingly, independent claim 9 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 10 recites "said connecting means comprises resource information managing means for managing the information relating to the resources, including a position in the real world for each of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit." Accordingly, independent claim 10, and claim 11 depending therefrom, are patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 16 recites "a resource information inquiring unit for inquiring the information relating to the resources, including a position in the real world of each of the resources, which are usable in said network." Accordingly, independent claim 16 is patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

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Independent claim 17 recites " said computer comprises a resource setting unit to set the resources according to the resource information, including position in the real world for each of the resources." Accordingly, independent claim 17, and claims 18 and 19 depending therefrom, are patentable over the Examiner's cited references.

Independent claim 20 recites "said connecting means comprises resource information managing means for managing the information relating to the resources, including a position in the real world for each of the resources." Accordingly, independent claim 20 and claim 21 depending therefrom are patentable over the Examiner's cited references.
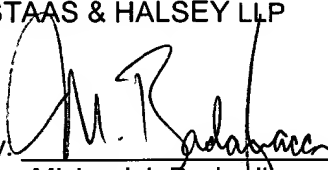
CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 4-11-02

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 2-10, 16 and 17 as follows:

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer network system in which plural connecting means capable of connecting and disconnecting a computer is provided in a network circuit to which a first computer has been connected, and a second computer is connected to one of said connecting means, wherein

said first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing information relating to resources, including a [the] position in the real world for each of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit, and resource information processing means for taking out the content of said resource information managing means in response to a request of information relating to usable resources from another computer, and transmitting to said network circuit,

said second computer comprises resource setting means for setting the resource according to the content of the resource information transmitted by said resource information processing means of said first computer, and

when said second computer is connected to said network circuit through any one of said plural connecting means, said resource setting means receives the content of the resource information transmitted by said resource information processing means of said first computer and sets the resource.

2. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer network system in which plural connecting means capable of connecting and disconnecting a computer is provided in a network circuit to which a first computer has been connected, and a second computer is connected to

one of said connecting means, wherein

said first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing

information relating to resources, including [the] a position in the real world for each of the

resources, which are usable through said network circuit, resource information processing

means for taking out the content of said resource information managing means in response to a

request of information relating to usable resources from another computer, and transmitting to

said network circuit, and resource installation position managing means for managing the

position at which the resource managed by said resource information managing means exists,

said second computer comprises position noticing means for noticing the position

information indicating the position to said first computer when connected to one of said

connecting means, resource selecting means for selecting an arbitrary resource out of plural

resources, and resource setting means for setting the resource according to the content of the

resource information selected by said resource selecting means, and

when said second computer is connected to said network circuit through any one of said

plural connecting means,

said resource installation position managing means of said first computer reads out the

resource information corresponding to the position information noticed by said position noticing

means from said resource information managing means, and transmits to said second computer,

and

said resource setting means of said second computer sets the resource selected by said

resource selecting means in the resource information received from said first computer.

3.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A computer network system in which plural

connecting means capable of connecting and disconnecting a computer is provided in a network

circuit to which a first computer has been connected, and a second computer is connected to

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one of said connecting means, wherein

said first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing

information relating to resources, including [the] a position in the real world for each of the

resources, which are usable through said network circuit, and resource information processing

means for taking out the content of said resource information managing means in response to a

request of information relating to usable resources from another computer, and transmitting to

said network circuit,

said second computer comprises resource information holding means for holding the

resource information relating to the resources that can be managed directly, and comparing

means for comparing the content of said resource information holding means and the content of

said resource information managing means of said first computer, and detecting a replaceable

resource, and

when said second computer is connected to said network circuit through any one of said

plural connecting means as being disconnected from the resource that can be managed directly,

said comparing means compares the content of said resource information managing means

transmitted from said resource information processing means and the content of said resource

information holding means, and resource setting means sets a replaceable resource.

4.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer network system in which plural

connecting means capable of connecting and disconnecting a computer is provided in a network

circuit to which a computer is connected to one of said connecting means, wherein

said computer comprises resource information managing means for managing plural

sets of information relating to the resources, including [the] a position in the real world for each

of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit corresponding to said connecting

means, position selecting means for selecting one of the information relating to plural sets of

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resources managed by said resource information managing means, and resource setting means for setting the resource according to the information relating to the resource corresponding to the position selected by said position selecting means, and

when said computer is connected to said network circuit through any one of said plural connecting means, said resource setting means obtains the resource information corresponding to the position selected by said position selecting means from said resource information managing means, and sets the resource.

5.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer network system in which plural connecting means capable of connecting and disconnecting a computer is provided in a network circuit to which a first computer has been connected, and a second computer is connected to one of said connecting means, wherein

said first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing plural sets of information relating to resources, including [the] a position in the real world for each of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit corresponding to plural positions,

said second computer comprises resource information managing means for managing plural sets of information relating to the resources, including [the] a position in the real world for each of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit corresponding to said connecting means, position selecting means for selecting one of the information relating to plural sets of resources managed by said resource information managing means, resource setting means for setting the resource according to the information relating to the resource corresponding to the position selected by said position selecting means, and comparing means for comparing the updated time of the content of the own resource information managing means and the updated time of the content of said resource information managing means of said first computer, and

when said second computer is connected to said network circuit through any one of said plural connecting means, said resource setting means obtains the content of said resource information managing means of said first computer, and registers in said resource information managing means in the case where the comparing result by said comparing means shows that the updated time of the content of the own resource information managing means is before the updated time of the content of said resource information managing means of said first computer.

6.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer network system in which plural connecting means capable of connecting and disconnecting a computer is provided in a network circuit to which a computer is connected to one of said connecting means, wherein

said computer comprises resource information managing means for managing plural sets of information relating to the resources, including [the] a position in the real world for each of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit corresponding to said connecting means, position selecting means for selecting one of the information relating to plural sets of resources managed by said resource information managing means, resource setting means for setting the resource according to the information relating to the resource corresponding to the position selected by said position selecting means, updated resource information transmitting means for transmitting updated resource information to all computers connected to said network circuit when content of said resource information managing means is updated, and resource information updating means for updating the content of said resource information managing means when receiving the updated resource information, and

when said computer is connected to said network circuit through any one of said plural connecting means, said resource information updating means updates the content of said resource information managing means in the case where said resource information updating means receives the updated resource information from said updated resource information

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transmitting means of other computer.

7. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer network system in which plural connecting means capable of connecting and disconnecting a computer is provided in a network circuit to which plural first computers have been connected, and a second computer is connected to one of said connecting means, wherein

each of said first computers comprises resource information managing means for managing information relating to a resource installed at a specific position in the real world usable through said network circuit, and resource information processing means for taking out the content of said resource information processing means in response to a request of information relating to usable resources from another computer, and transmitting to said network circuit,

said second computer comprises position information managing means for managing information relating to the positions of the resources, the information including a position in the real world for each of the resources, managed by each of said plural first computers, position selecting means for selecting one of the information relating to the positions managed by said position information managing means, resource information obtaining means for obtaining the information relating to the resource corresponding to the position selected by said position selecting means from said first computer managing it, and resource setting means for setting the resource according to the content of the resource information obtained by said resource information obtaining means, and

when said second computer is connected to said network circuit through any one of said plural connecting means, said resource information obtaining means obtains the resource information corresponding to the position selected by said position selecting means from the information managed by said position information managing means, and said resource setting

means sets the resource.

8.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer network system in which plural connecting means capable of connecting and disconnecting a computer is provided in a network circuit to which a computer is connected to one of said connecting means, wherein

said computer comprises resource information obtaining means, when another computer is connected to said connecting means of said network circuit, for obtaining information relating to the usable resources through said network circuit from said other computer, said information including [the] a position in the real world for each of the resources, and resource setting means for setting the resource according to the information relating to the resource obtained by said resource information obtaining means, and

when said computer is connected to said network circuit through any one of said plural connecting means, said resource setting means sets the resource according to the resource information obtained by said resource information obtaining means from other computer connected to said connecting means of said network circuit.

9.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer network system in which plural connecting means capable of connecting and disconnecting a computer is provided in a network circuit to which a computer is connected to one of said connecting means, wherein

each of said plural connecting means has position managing means for storing the position information indicating each installation position in the real world,

said computer comprises resource information managing means for managing plural sets of information relating to the resources, including [the] a position in the real world for each of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit corresponding to said connecting means, position selecting means for selecting one of the information relating to plural sets of

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resources managed by said resource information managing means corresponding to the position information stored in said position managing means of said connecting means, and resource setting means for setting the resource according to the information relating to the resource corresponding to the position selected by said position selecting means, and

when said computer is connected to said network circuit

through any one of said plural connecting means, said resource setting means sets the resource according to the resource information registered in said resource information managing means corresponding to the position information stored in said position information managing means of the connecting means to which said computer is connected.

10. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer network system in which plural connecting means capable of connecting and disconnecting a computer is provided in a network circuit to which a computer is connected to one of said connecting means, wherein

said connecting means comprises resource information managing means for managing the information relating to the resources, including [the] a position in the real world for each of the resources, which are usable through said network circuit near each installation position, resource information noticing means for noticing the content of said resource information managing means when the computer system is connected, and updated resource information registering means for updating and registering the content of said resource information managing means by receiving updated resource information from said computer,

said computer comprises resource information receiving means for receiving the resource information managed by said resource information managing means noticed by said resource information noticing means, resource setting means for setting the resource according to the resource information received by said resource information receiving means, and updated resource information noticing means for noticing the updated resource information to said

connecting means in order to update the content of said resource information managing means of said connecting means, and

when said computer is connected to said network circuit through any one of said plural connecting means, said resource information receiving means receives the resource information managed by said resource information managing means noticed from said resource information noticing means, and said resource setting means sets the resource according to the resource information received by said resource information receiving means.

16.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A portable computer used by being connected to a computer network to which a server computer is connected, comprising:

a resource information inquiring unit for inquiring the information relating to the resources, including [the] a position in the real world of each of the resources, which are usable in said network, to said server computer of the network to which it is connected itself,

a resource information obtaining unit for obtaining resource information noticed from said server computer in response to the inquiry from said resource information inquiring unit, and a resource setting unit for setting at least one resource required in said network according to the information relating to the resource obtained by said resource information obtaining unit, wherein said resource setting unit, when connected to a certain network, sets the resource according to the resource information intrinsic to the network obtained by said resource information obtaining unit.

17.   (TWICE AMENDED) A system comprising:

a computer; and

first and second connecting units to connect and disconnect said computer, the first and second connecting units comprising a resource information managing unit to manage resource

information relating to a [resource] plurality of resources which is usable through said system, and

said computer comprises a resource setting unit to set the [resource] resources according to the resource information, including position in the real world for each of the resources.